

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-18 remain pending in this application, Claims 1-6 and 19-20 having been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected on prior art grounds, Claims 4-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter; and Claims 7-20 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 7-20 and the indication that Claims 4-6 include allowable subject matter. In order to expedite early issuance of a patent with the claim scope of Claims 7-18, Claims 1-6 and 19-20 have been canceled without prejudice, subject to Applicants' right to pursue patentability of the subject matter of these claims in one or more later filed continuation applications.

Accordingly, only allowed Claims 7-18 remain pending in the present application, which is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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